

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 12, 2003. Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 21 remain in the application, with Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 16 to 21 having been amended. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

It is noted that this amendment has been prepared in accordance with the Patent Office's revised format for amendments and therefore, where appropriate, waiver of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,261,044 (Dev) in view of Microsoft Windows screen dumps. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns management of settings information for each of a plurality of functions. According to the invention of Claims 1, 6 and 11, information concerning each of various peripheral devices connected to a network is acquired, based on settings information that is managed for each of a plurality of functions, where the settings information comprises an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function. Then, when a user selects an icon corresponding to a function, at least a part of the current settings information that is acquired is displayed in proximity of the selected icon. For example, as shown in Figure 9, when a user selects icon 901 (corresponding to function 2 of Figure 6) with a curser, the current settings information 903 is displayed next to the icon 901. The displayed settings information includes an identifier 605 of the function and one or a plurality of peripheral

devices for implementing the function (609, 611). As a result, a user can determine which of a plurality of peripheral devices has the selected function mounted thereon merely by selecting the icon of the function.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a network terminal apparatus comprising management means for managing settings information for each of a plurality of functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function, search means for acquiring information concerning each of various peripheral devices connected to a network, based on the settings information managed by said management means, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each function managed by the management means, and settings information display means for displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the information acquired by the search means in regard to a function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among the icons displayed by the icon display means, in proximity of the selected icon.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claims 16, 18 and 20 include features along the lines of Claims 1, 6 and 11 with one difference being that the current settings information is displayed when an icon is designated for a predetermined period of time. Thus, Claim 16 is a network terminal apparatus comprising management means for managing settings information for each of a plurality of functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing

each function, search means for acquiring information concerning each of various peripheral devices connected to a network, based on the settings information managed by the management means, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each function managed by the management means, designating means for allowing a user to designate, in order to select, a desired icon from among the icons displayed by the icon display means, and settings information display means for, when an icon is designated for a predetermined period of time, displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the information acquired by the search means in regard to a function corresponding to the designated icon.

Claims 18 and 20 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 16.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of acquiring information concerning each of various peripheral devices connected to a network, based on settings information for each of a plurality of functions, displaying icons each corresponding to each function, and displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the acquired information in regard to a function corresponding to an icon selected by a user.

Dev merely teaches displaying a multifunction icon (e.g., an engineering network icon 332 shown in Fig. 8A) such that when the icon is clicked-on, a view of the details of the engineering network is obtained (as shown in Fig. 8B). In the details view of the engineering network, network devices are represented by multifunction icons 340, 342 and 344. Therefore, Dev merely displays the multifunction icons of the network devices

included in the network as detail information, but the icon is not displayed with current settings information which indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function. Accordingly, Dev is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of acquiring information concerning each of various peripheral devices connected to a network, based on settings information for each of a plurality of functions, displaying icons each corresponding to each function, and displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the acquired information in regard to a function corresponding to an icon selected by a user.

The Microsoft screen dumps are merely seen to depict displaying static information stored in a memory for use as tool tips. That is, the information displayed in the screen dumps is not acquired based on settings information for each of a plurality of functions, and does not display the current settings information that is acquired from various peripheral devices. Accordingly, the screen dumps are also not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of acquiring information concerning each of various peripheral devices connected to a network, based on settings information for each of a plurality of functions, displaying icons each corresponding to each function, and displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the acquired information in regard to a function corresponding to an icon selected by a user.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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